February 23

Luke 9:57-62

"What's *REALLY* Going On?"

57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.
58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man

hath not where
to lay his head.
59 And he said
unto nother,
Follow me. But he
said, Lord, suffer
me first to go and
bury my father.
60 Jesus said unto
him, Let the dead
bury their dead:
but go thou and
preach the
kingdom of God.

61 And another
also said, Lord,
I will follow thee;
but let me first go
bid them farewell,
which are at home
at my house.
62 And Jesus said
unto him, No man,
having put his
hand to the plough,
and looking back,
is fit for the
kingdom of God.

Did Jesus know what was really happening? When addressing these men concerning following him, Jesus not only responded to their reluctance, but dug deeper into their true motivation and level of interest.
In the first case, Jesus quickly exposed the man's underlying incentive for

voluntarily offering
to follow. In essence,
Jesus was telling him:
You're thinking this
may be the hot,
new investment
opportunity.

Wrong!
The fact is that you'll
have even less than
animals. You may not
even have a home.
Following me is
not a way to get rich.

That's important because even today, some are wrongly led to believe following Christ is "the IN thing" to do. Some attend churches mainly for the purpose of connecting with and socializing with those who can further their own business ventures—networking.

Even invitations to join churches or to “accept Christ” during “altar calls” are often heavily coated with promises of earthly goodies. Jesus’ words of having next to nothing are very rarely, if ever, mentioned.

In the second case of this account in Luke, Jesus asked a man to follow him. The man

replied with what he felt was a legitimate excuse for not complying. He said he had to bury his father first. Apparently burials were high on the list of sacred and important responsibilities. Jesus, however, dug deeper by basically saying:

Following me is to recognize what “living”

and “dead” really means in light of eternity. Let the spiritually dead, bury their physically or spiritually dead. The spiritually living are to help others become spiritually alive.

The third case had another volunteer (as in the first account). The man said he wanted to follow Jesus

but, in this instance, only after he had informed his family and said “goodbye” to them. Jesus responded: If you're not going to be all the way in, don't bother. Following me is a life-long commitment. These types of excuses for not following Christ are still used today. The message is that whether you are asked

to follow Christ by someone, or whether you voluntarily pursue a lifestyle of Christ-likeness, you should know what's really going on. You should know what's at stake.

Know, with total certainty, that sacrifices must be made. Once starting a walk with Christ,

so many go backward because they were never given true and reliable expectations.

They didn't understand the sacrifices that would be needed. Such surrender of "self" may well include never obtaining wealth and even lacking the most basic needs. Also, as a true Believer, one will surely come to

refrain from various customs and traditions (which are unbiblical or ungodly).

Believers may have to face many losses, including that of affection.

Many will experience deliberate humiliation, isolation, and rejection, even

from friends and relatives for having faith in Christ.

Before “making a decision for Christ”, as some say, look before you leap.

That’s how Jesus exemplified to draw people tohimself.

He told the truth so people would

know the truth.

When anyone
proclaims they want
to follow Christ,
that's fine.

It's great, but do
They know what's
really going on?